



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Santa Ana Region



**Linda S. Adams**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

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**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

October 10, 2007

Jon Duston  
Knowleton Communities  
205 Savona Walk  
Long Beach, CA 90803

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS CERTIFICATION  
FOR TRACT MAP 33135, CITY OF CORONA, RIVERSIDE COUNTY (ACOE  
REFERENCE NO. 2006 – 01121 – JPL)**

Dear Mr. Duston:

On April 5, 2007, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification (Certification), submitted on your behalf by Michael Brandman Associates, for residential Tract Map 33135 (TM 33135, a.k.a. Knowleton Communities) in the City of Corona. On July 23, 2007, we received final requested hydraulic information regarding the potential impacts of TM 33135 on the adjacent Tin Mine Canyon Creek. This letter responds to your request for certification that the proposed project, described in your application and summarized below, will comply with State water quality standards outlined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (1995) and subsequent Basin Plan amendments:

**Project Description:** Construction of 63 single-family dwelling units, and associated roadways and infrastructure on a 62.2-acre site. Two arched-culvert road crossings will be constructed over the adjacent Tin Mine Canyon Creek. A concrete-pavement Arizona crossing for an access road will be constructed across Hagador Canyon Creek. The project is located southwest of the confluence of Tin Mine Canyon and Hagadore Canyon Creeks within Section 10 of Township 4 South, Range 7 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey *Corona South, California*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map (34.0176 degrees N/ -117.4449 degrees W).

**Receiving water:** Tin Mine Canyon Creek, tributary to the Santa Ana River.

**Fill area:** 0.08 acres of permanent impact, and 0.05 acres of temporary impact to an ephemeral drainage (575 linear feet).

**Dredge/Fill volume:** N/A

***California Environmental Protection Agency***



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Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 39

You have proposed to mitigate water quality impacts as described in your Certification application and subsequent submittals. The proposed mitigation is summarized below:  
Onsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- Nuisance flow and 'first-flush' discharges from the project site will be treated in an extended detention basin located at the northeast portion of the site. The extended detention basin will operate in tandem with upstream detention/debris basins that will accept storm water runoff from the adjacent Cleveland National Forest and the undeveloped portion of the site and reduce co-mingling with discharges from the developed portion. The extended detention basin will be operated and maintained by a homeowner's association. Approximately 0.24-acres of Tin Mine Creek will be enhanced through the removal of invasive plant species. Trash and debris will be removed. The Creek will be vegetated with fire-resistant native riparian plants.
- Additional site-specific best management practices (BMPs) are specified in the final Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and in the site's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan(s) (SWPPP).

Offsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- No off-site Water Quality Standards Mitigation is proposed.

Should the proposed project impact state- or federally-listed endangered species or their habitat, implementation of measures identified in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game will ensure those impacts are mitigated to an acceptable level. Appropriate Best Management Practices will be implemented to reduce construction-related impacts to Waters of the State. This project is over one acre. Therefore, coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, Water Quality Order 99-08 DWQ, is required, as is development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), to control the discharge of pollutants from the project site.

You have applied for a Nationwide Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. You have applied for a Streambed Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Game. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Corona adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for TM 33135 on July 19, 2006. The Executive Officer has considered the City's Mitigated Negative Declaration in the issuance of this Certification.



**This 401 Certification is contingent upon the execution of the following conditions:**

1. This Certification is conditioned upon the construction of all storm water treatment facilities as proposed. All structural storm water treatment facilities must be constructed and operational prior to the occupancy of any on-site residential home.
2. Knowleton Communities must operate and maintain the extended detention basin until such time that the City of Corona or the homeowner's association accepts this responsibility.
3. Regional Board staff and other authorized representatives shall be allowed:
  - a. Entry upon premises where storm water treatment facilities are located, or where records are kept under the requirements of this Certification and applicable waste discharge requirements;
  - b. Access to copy any records that are kept under the requirements of this Certification and applicable waste discharge requirements;
  - c. To inspect any facility, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations related to the treatment of storm water runoff from the project site; and
  - d. To photograph, sample and monitor for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Certification and applicable waste discharge requirements.
4. This Certification and any subsequent amendments must be maintained on site as a denoted element of any project SWPPP or WQMP.
5. Knowleton Communities must provide geographic information system shape files in a portable digital format to Regional Board staff not later than December 10, 2007. The shape files shall include the project boundaries, polygons for the structural storm water treatment facilities, and the mitigation site boundaries. The shape file attributes shall include the Regional Board File Number (332006-31), the project name, and the discharger name. For information regarding the required projection and other technical data specifications, please contact Heather Boyd at (951) 320-2006.
6. Knowleton Communities must remove trash and debris within Tin Mine Canyon Creek. A minimum of 0.24 acres of invasive plant species must be eradicated and vegetated with fire-resistant native riparian plant species. The mitigation effort must proceed according to a written mitigation plan with a duration of 5-years, written according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mitigation guidelines. The mitigation effort must be initiated not later than October 1<sup>st</sup> following initial site grading of TM 33135. The mitigation plan must be submitted to the Executive Officer by January 2, 2007.
7. This Certification is transferable only upon written notice to the Executive Officer. The notice must include written acknowledgement of this Certification by the transferee's authorized representative.

**Under California Water Code, Section 1058, and Pursuant to 23 CCR §3860, the following shall be included as conditions of all water quality certification actions:**

- (a) Every certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section §13330 of the Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with Section 3867) of this Chapter.
- (b) Certification is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a FERC license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to Subsection §3855(b) of this Chapter and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
- (c) Certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under this Chapter and owed by the applicant.

Although we anticipate no further regulatory involvement, if the above stated conditions are changed, any of the criteria or conditions as previously described are not met, or new information becomes available that indicates a water quality problem, we may formulate Waste Discharge Requirements.

In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under state law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this certification.

In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this certification, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) may require the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Regional Board deems appropriate. The burden, including costs, of the reports shall be reasonable in relation to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.

In response to any violation of the conditions of this certification, the Regional Board may add to or modify the conditions of this certification as appropriate to ensure compliance. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations Section 3857, we will take no further action on your application. Please notify our office five (5) days before construction begins on this project.

This letter constitutes a Water Quality Standards Certification issued pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401. I hereby issue an order certifying that any discharge from the referenced project will comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 301 (Effluent

Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the Clean Water Act, and with other applicable requirements of State law. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ (Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ), "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Standards Certification. Order No. 200-0017-DWQ is available at [www.swrcb.ca.gov/resdec/wqorders/2003/wgo/wgo2003-0017.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/resdec/wqorders/2003/wgo/wgo2003-0017.pdf)

Should there be any questions, please contact Adam Fischer at (951) 320-6363, or Mark Adelson at (951) 782-3234.

Sincerely,



GERARD J. THIBEAULT  
Executive Officer

cc (via electronic mail):

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office – Stephanie Hall  
State Water Resources Control Board, OCC – Erik Spiess  
State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ-Water Quality Certification Unit – Bill Orme  
California Department of Fish and Game, Ontario Office – Jeff Brandt  
U.S. EPA, Supervisor of the Wetlands Regulatory Office WTR- 8 – Tim Vendlinski